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**From:** Esher, Diana [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=44BD082A59CD44FFA0D5B1C054A3E996-DESHER]  
**Sent:** 1/21/2021 11:12:03 PM  
**To:** Ben Grumbles -MDE- [ben.grumbles@maryland.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Transition to Acting Regional Administrator for EPA Region 3

Hello again,

We've been trying to figure out why Maryland's Phase III WIP is on the list as well. It could be positive, given that the title of these reviews has "tackle climate change" and the Maryland WIP met its load requirements and addressed climate change.

We also thought this message from Ben Alexandro which we received today was curious.

"On a related note, we are glad to see that "Evaluation of Maryland's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP)" is specifically outlined (#37) in yesterday's press release from the Biden-Harris transition team, "*FACT SHEET: List of Agency Actions for Review*" (attached). As stormwater is an important part of the Phase III WIP, and perhaps the sector in which Maryland is struggling the most, we hope this letter will be of particular interest to you."

If we find out anything specific, I'll let you know.

Diana

Diana Esher  
Acting Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region 3  
215-814-2706  
esher.diana@epa.gov

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**From:** Ben Grumbles -MDE- <ben.grumbles@maryland.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 4:46 PM  
**To:** Esher, Diana <Esher.Diana@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Leonard, Paul <leonard.paul@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Transition to Acting Regional Administrator for EPA Region 3

Thanks Diana. That beats wordy, woeful, and wacky any day.

Speaking of wacky, I am scratching my head over item 37 of the 48 EPA items in the Fact sheet for yesterday's Executive Order on health, environment, and climate. If you find out the origin or basis of that cloud of doubt surrounding our state's phase III WIP, please let me know.

Thanks.  
Ben

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 21, 2021, at 1:46 PM, Esher, Diana <[Esher.Diana@epa.gov](mailto:Esher.Diana@epa.gov)> wrote:

Dear Secretary Grumbles,

At the January 20, 2021 inauguration, Joseph R. Biden and Kamala Harris were sworn in as the president and vice-president of the United States. With the change of administrations, I have the honor of serving as the acting regional administrator for EPA Region 3 until a permanent regional administrator is named.

I have asked Paul Leonard, Director of the Superfund and Emergency Management Division, to assume the deputy regional administrator responsibilities. Paul is knowledgeable and already on top of many issues, having him by my side during the transition will be of tremendous assistance.

I hope to build on existing relationships and prepare a solid foundation for the permanent regional administrator when she/he is named and assumes the role. I plan to continue regular meetings so that we can discuss matters impacting your state. I look forward to working with you in this new role and to continuing the dialogue that has occurred between Region 3 and the states in the past.

*On another note, thank you again for participating in Cos's farewell celebration. I appreciated your remarks and if you'd ever like me to introduce you on the Chesapeake Bay Program's PSC meeting with an alliteration of "witty, wise and wonderful", I'd be happy to do so!*

Thank you,  
Diana

Diana Esher  
Deputy Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region 3  
215-814-2706  
[esher.diana@epa.gov](mailto:esher.diana@epa.gov)

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